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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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SUBJECT Austrian-Hungarian Exiles Cooperation in the Donaubund

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1. The first meeting of the leadership of the Donaubund was held in Innsbruck on 25 Sep 53. The former Austrian Minister Hornbostel, coming from Gmunden, attended the meeting. Béla Sándor, László Bethlen, Antal Braunecker, Louis Máriaffy, represented the Hungarians.
2. The president, Minister Hornbostel, [redacted] a distinguished career-diplomat, speaks good Hungarian and attended the same schools in Vienna as did most of the known Hungarian diplomats who served before the end of the war. He is a friend of the Hungarian diplomats Baron George Bakach-Bessenyei, Francis Marosy, Andreas Hory, Peter Matuska, and Arnóthy-Jungerth, all former Hungarian Ministers. At present Hornbostel is not in active service, but his advice is often sought by the Austrian Foreign Office and he receives full pay from them. He is a strong advocate of the Austro-Hungarian unity and cooperation and also advocates the reorganization of the Danubian Valley in the form of a Federation.
3. The "Donaubund" at present has about 170 to 180 members and almost every one of them has played some political role in his country. The organization up to now has been restricted to lands of the Tyrol and Vorarlberg. Members are now being recruited in Kaernten, where Dr. Gábor Sántha, a prominent dentist and a Hungarian refugee, from Klagenfurt is representing the Donaubund. The leaders hope that with the assistance of the Austrians it will be possible to establish the organization in Vienna also. At Graz preliminary steps only have been taken, and Charles Vértessy, a member of the Hungarian UNIO group, has accepted there the representation. No suitable Hungarian has yet been found in Salzburg, but it is planned to win for the Donaubund Count László Lónyay. The start is difficult in Salzburg, because leftist members of the office on the National Hungarian Committee are strongly entrenched there. Much is expected in Salzburg from the editors Canaval and Dalma, who support the Donaubund and who have promised all-out assistance by the influential "Salzburger Nachrichten".

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4. At the first Austro-Hungarian meeting in Innsbruck, the President, Hornbostel, declared that he is against holding meetings of the committee behind closed doors. He proposed that a schedule for several months be prepared for the Donaubund's activities. He asked the Hungarian representatives that as a first step, a complete register of all Hungarian refugees in Austria be set up; complete with all data, concerning profession, etc. He also asked for a precise statement as to how many Hungarians, mainly intellectuals, would be affected by the occupying forces' planned dismissal from their present jobs, for care can be taken of them in due time by finding new jobs for them. He wants an authentic list, which he can present to President Raab and ask for his assistance. He will ask that the same rights be given to the Hungarian refugees, concerning their working permits, which were granted in Austria to the Volksdeutsch. He wants the Labor Exchanges to be instructed that the Hungarians be treated more favorably than hitherto. According to Hornbostel, an Austrian law decrees that every foreigner, who has stayed in Austria over five years is to be given the same rights as an Austrian citizen. They may be of great help to the Hungarians.

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6. President Hornbostel finally proposed, that in the winter of 1953 and 1954 the Donaubund arrange public lectures and discussions, with one Austrian and one Hungarian expert speaking on problems connected with the program of the Donaubund. He is willing to hold the first lecture, and then the aforementioned Professor Sass from Graz, and later the Editor in Chief Dalma could follow.

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